



Save the Date

November 12:

Mobile Mixer
5 pm on Zoom
Merlin's Family Restaurant
Demonstration

November 19:

Morning Networking - Because
Chamber Works - at Small
Business Casual - 8 am on Zoom

November 26:

 Thanksgiving

November 28:

Small Business Saturday - All Day
- Princeton
Light Up Princeton - Lights on at 6
pm, Riverside Park and
downtown Princeton

Thank you to our 2020 Chamber Sponsors:

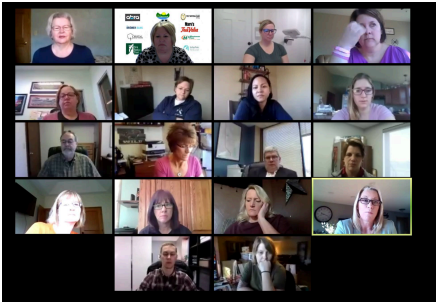
Sterling Pointe Senior Living
Minuteman Press
Marv's True Value
First National Bank of Milaca
First Bank & Trust
Crystal Cabinet Works
Bremer Bank
ABRA Auto Body & Glass

Let's Brighten Up 2020!

We invite all of you to join with us in celebrating Small Business Saturday by going all out and decorating your businesses in the theme of How the Grinch Stole Christmas. It's been a tough second half of 2020. Let's not let the Grinch Steal our Christmas by having some fun decorating our storefronts and celebrating the season. If your business would like to participate, please [CLICK HERE](#) to complete a short form with your contact information. Win the holiday trophy along with bragging rights!

November 28 is Small Business Saturday, and we have lots going on! We'll begin the day with a Shop Local QR Code Scavenger Hunt. Begin at **Marv's True Value**, find the QR Code, scan it and it will tell you the next store to visit. Once you scan the last business, you'll see a form to provide your information to be entered into a drawing to win a \$25 gift certificate from one of the participating businesses.

We are also collaborating with the **City of Princeton** to decorate Rum River Drive, create a lighted drive through of Riverside Park, and will include the Princeton Public Utilities residential contest on the map of lights as well. From 2-4 pm, Santa will be on the pier at Riverside Park, and the lights go on at 6 pm. Nonprofit community organizations will be collecting free will donations as well as non perishable items for the Princeton Pantry. Also, from 2-4 pm, stop by the North Mall for a craft fair and drive by the small building south of Berry Law Offices for a treat from the **Civic Betterment Club!** It's going to be a great day!



Host AM Networking

We are looking for hosts for our Morning Networking Meeting in 2021. This meeting is a fantastic way to promote your business. It is a structured format that begins with all attendees sharing their tag lines. Then we hear announcements from the Chamber, the City of Princeton and Princeton Public Schools. From there, the host gets “15 minutes of fame” where they talk about their business, often times in a really fun format. During the time of Covid, we have held these meetings online as well as outdoors in parks where we can social distance. The host provides a small “breakfast” of their choice, which can range from muffins/donuts and coffee, to breakfast burritos to fruit and yogurt. If we’re online, we ask everyone to grab some breakfast on their own and join us! Please contact Kim at kim.young@princetonmnchamber.org if you are interested in hosting in 2021!

Business & Nonprofit of the Year Nominees

Congratulations to all of our nominees! Stay tuned for a ballot coming your way through email soon!

Business of the Year Nominees

Bopha Sar is a bridal design shop located on Rum River Drive in Princeton. It is owned by Bopha Thomas who has been focusing on bespoke bridal gowns for the past five years. Her process involves getting to know her clients so she can create a dress especially for that person. Bopha, being community minded, jumped into action at the start of the pandemic by creating masks for the community.

Marv’s True Value is a locally owned hardware store in Princeton. They are supportive of the Chamber through board work (Alisha Lueck), the Shop Local committee, the Gala Committee, the Rum River Festival and more. They are also supportive of local events as well as the Princeton Senior Party.

Plastic Products is a customer focused custom thermoplastic, metal and ceramic injection molder that has been in business since 1962. They take part in the Chamber through our Leadership Program committee and this year served on a Workforce Panel with PHS students. They value teamwork, respect, fairness, openness, consistency and compassion for our customers, employees, suppliers, communities and environment. They show this through their hosted blood drives, support of the Princeton Pantry and more.

Nonprofit of the Year Nominees

Ruff Start Rescue is dedicated to saving the lives of at-risk animals. They also collaborate, communicate and educate about the importance of animal rescue and welfare. They have an intricate network of volunteers, supporters and employees where all skillsets and backgrounds are elevated and utilized. Without Ruff Start Rescue, hundreds of animals would have unfairly lost their lives.

Rum River Life Choices welcomes all women who are pregnant or think they might be pregnant. They are there to help women through their journey to ensure that all questions are answered in an unbiased, compassionate manner. They have offered free gift bags of diapers, supplies and more throughout the pandemic.

(Continued below)

Non profit of the Year, Cont.

Friends of Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge is a partner of the the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, a 30,700 acre, unspoiled open space in our own backyard. The Friends are a close partner with Princeton Public Schools, holding classes for thousands of students per year. In addition, they collaborate with the Chamber on the Leadership Committee.

Volunteer of the Year Nominees

Mary E. Anderson is a lifelong resident of Princeton and has donated hundreds of hours of time, both in the community and through the chamber. She is an active member of the Chamber through her business SendOutCards and volunteers on the Welcoming Committee. Mary also volunteers as the secretary of the Community Garden, has spread the word about it and helped expand the number of raised beds. The garden now has 100 gardeners, 15 raised beds and many ground plots. Fellow gardener Teri Walker said, “There is not anything that would help out the Princeton Community Garden that Mary would not volunteer to help with or take lead of. I have seen her do the same faithful volunteerism in everything she is involved with. The Community Garden could not have grown so fast and been such a success without Mary.”

Mike McCoy is an employee of Princeton Insurance Agency. He has been instrumental in helping the Chamber plan the 2020 Gala as well as this summer’s PACC Golf Tournament. Mike’s coworkers say he is fun to work with because of his good sense of humor mixed with a high drive to succeed and help others succeed. He believes helping others creates camaraderie and unity. He enjoys inventing ways to work more efficiently and effectively “and that includes all the time he spends volunteering in the community. Truly a ‘plus’ for Princeton.”

Carrie Vesel is a member of the Chamber Board and works nonstop for our local businesses as well as her employer, ABRA Auto Body and Glass. She serves on the Rum River Festival Committee, chairs the Golf Tournament Committee, and is a member of the Chili Fest Committee and Leadership Committee. She is also responsible for implementing our Morning Networking Group. She is also very active in serving this and surrounding communities through ABRA Auto. Carrie’s supervisor, Danyell Wendland, said she met Carrie through volunteering and recruited her after seeing her outgoing personality and willingness to go above and beyond. She has led the ABRA team to many opportunities in volunteering along with ways for ABRA to give back through the Great Pumpkin Give-Away, free windshield chip repair events, and coordinating the Meals on Wheels Drive when there was a need. “Our ABRA family is proud to have Carrie as part of our team as a nominee for Volunteer of the Year,” said Danyell.

Want to help us Brighten Up 2020?

Contact us at pacc@princetonmnchamber.org or buy a string of lights for \$10/each at Marv’s True Value!